

Application No. 09/410,853
Amendment dated October 8, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications. In this listing, claims 3, 8, 10-12, 16, 21, 23-25, 29, 34, and 36-38 have been cancelled, claims 1-2, 4-7, 9, 13-15, 17-20, 22, 26-28, 30-33, 35 and 39 have been amended, and claims 40-51 have been added.

Listings of Claims:

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Cont 1. (Currently amended) A method for providing help information that explains to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the method comprising:

~~providing a user with an opportunity to access help information for a portion of an electronic television program guide~~ receiving a user input; and

providing help information that explains to the user how the portion of the electronic television program guide operates in response to receiving the user input, wherein the help information provided depends on the state of the guide at which the user enters the input.

2. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim 1
~~wherein providing a user with an opportunity to access help~~
~~information comprises~~ further comprising:

displaying a help icon using the electronic
television program guide; ~~and,~~ wherein receiving the user input
comprises

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~~providing a user with an opportunity to select~~
receiving a user selection of the help icon.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim 1
wherein providing help information ~~that explains to the user how~~
~~a portion of the electronic television program guide operates~~
comprises displaying the help information in response to the
user input, wherein a user depressing a help key on a remote
control generates the user input.

5. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim 1
wherein providing help information ~~that explains to the user how~~
~~a portion of the electronic television program guide operates~~
comprises displaying a text message that explains to the user
how the a portion of the electronic television program guide
operates.

6. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim 1 wherein providing help information ~~that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates~~ comprises displaying an instructional video that explains to the user how ~~the~~ a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

7. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim 1 wherein providing help information ~~that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates~~ comprises playing an instructional audio program that explains to the user how ~~the~~ a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) The method defined in ~~claim 8~~ claim 1 wherein ~~[[;]]~~ the electronic television program guide has a plurality of operating points~~[[;]]~~ , the method further ~~comprises~~ comprising:

tracking a current operating point in the plurality of operating points~~[[;]]~~ , and wherein

~~providing context sensitive help information that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television~~

~~program guide operates comprises providing~~ the help information
provided is based on the current operating point.

10-12. (Cancelled)

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13. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim 1
further comprising:

storing the help information in a memory; and
retrieving the help information from the memory
in response to ~~a user indicating a desire to access the help~~
~~information~~ receiving the user input.

14. (Currently amended) An electronic television
program guide system that provides help information for
explaining to a user of an electronic television program guide
how the electronic television program guide operates, the system
comprising:

~~means for providing a user with an opportunity to~~
~~access help information for a portion of an electronic~~
~~television program guide;~~

means for receiving a user input;

means for providing help information that
explains to the user how ~~a portion of~~ the electronic television
program guide operates in response to receiving the user input,

wherein the help information provided depends on the state of the guide at which the user enters the input.

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15. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 14 ~~wherein the means for providing a user with an opportunity to access help information comprises~~ further comprising:

means for displaying a help icon using the electronic television program guide, ~~and~~ wherein receiving the user input comprises ~~means for providing a user with an opportunity to select~~ receiving a user selection of the help icon.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for providing help information ~~that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates~~ comprises means for displaying the help information in response to the user input, wherein a user depressing a help key on a remote control generates the user input.

18. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for providing help information ~~that~~

~~explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates~~ comprises means for displaying a text message that explains to the user how ~~the~~ a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

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19. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for providing help information ~~that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates~~ comprises means for displaying an instructional video that explains to the user how ~~the~~ a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

20. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for providing help information ~~that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates~~ comprises means for playing an instructional audio program that explains to the user how ~~the~~ a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The system defined in ~~claim 21~~ claim 14 wherein ~~[[:]]~~ the electronic television program guide has a plurality of operating points ~~[[;]]~~ , the system further ~~comprises~~ comprising:

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means for tracking a current operating point in the plurality of operating points ~~and~~ , wherein ~~the means for providing context sensitive help information that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates comprises means for providing the help information~~ provided is based on the current operating point.

23-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The system defined in claim 14 further comprising:

means for storing the help information; and
means for retrieving the help information from the means for storing in response to ~~a user indicating a desire to access the help information~~ receiving the user input.

27. (Currently amended) An electronic television program guide system that provides help information for explaining to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the system comprising:

a video display generator;
a remote controller;
a microcontroller; and

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an electronic television program guide executed by the microcontroller and programmed to (1) ~~provide the user with an opportunity to access help information for a portion of the electronic television program guide using the remote controller~~ receive a user input and (2) provide help information that explains to the user how ~~the portion of the electronic television program guide operates to the video display generator for display~~ in response to receiving the user input, wherein the help information provided depends on the state of the guide at which the user enters the input.

28. (Currently Amended) The system defined in claim 27 wherein the electronic television program guide is further programmed to:

provide a help icon to the video display generator for display; and

provide a the user with an opportunity to select the help icon using the remote controller.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the remote controller comprises a help key; and

the electronic television program guide is further configured to provide the help information to the video display generator in response to a the user depressing the help key on the remote controller.

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31. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the help information comprises a text message that explains to the user how ~~the~~ a portion of the electronic television program guide operates; and

the electronic television program guide is further programmed to provide the text message to the video display generator for display.

32. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the help information comprises an instructional video that explains to the user how ~~the~~ a portion of the electronic television program guide operates; and

the electronic television program guide is further configured to provide the instructional video to the video display generator for display.

33. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the system further comprises a television;

the help information comprises an instructional audio program that explains to the user how ~~the~~ a portion of the electronic television program guide operates; and

the electronic television program guide is configured to provide the audio program to the video display generator for playback by the television.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) The system defined in ~~claim 34~~ claim 27 wherein:

the electronic television program guide has a plurality of operating points in which a the user operates;

the electronic television program guide is further configured to track a current operating point in the plurality of operating points and provide the ~~context-sensitive~~ help information to the video display generator based on the current operating point at the time which the user enters the user input.

36-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 27 wherein the electronic television program guide is further programmed to:

store the help information in a memory; and

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retrieve the help information from the memory in response to ~~a user indicating a desire to access the help information with the remote controller~~ receiving the user input.

40. (New) Machine-readable media for use with an electronic television program guide, the machine-readable media comprising program logic recorded thereon for:

receiving a user input; and

providing help information that explains to the user how the electronic television program guide operates in response to receiving the user input, wherein the help information provided depends on the state of the guide at which the user enters the input.

41. (New) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 further comprising program logic recorded thereon for displaying a help icon using the electronic television program guide wherein receiving the user input comprises receiving a user selection of the help icon.

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42. (New) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 wherein the program logic for providing help information comprises program logic for displaying the help information in response to the user input, wherein a user depressing a help key on a remote control generates the user input.

43. (New) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 wherein the program logic for providing help information comprises program logic for displaying a text message that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

44. (New) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 wherein the program logic for providing help information comprises program logic for displaying an instructional video that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

45. (New) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 wherein the program logic for providing help information comprises program logic for playing an instructional audio program that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

46. (New) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 further comprising program logic recorded thereon for:

tracking a current operating point in a plurality of operating points; and

providing help information based on the current operating point.

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47. (New) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 further comprising program logic recorded thereon for:

storing the help information in a memory; and

retrieving the help information from the memory in response to receiving the user input.

48. (New) A method for providing help information that explains to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the method comprising:

querying the user to identify a portion of the electronic television program guide for which the user desires help information; and

displaying help information for the portion of the electronic television program guide identified by the user.

49. (New) An electronic television program guide system that provides help information for explaining to a user

of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the system comprising:

means for querying the user to identify a portion of the electronic television program guide for which the user desires help information; and

means for displaying help information for the portion of the electronic television program guide identified by the user.

50. (New) An electronic television program guide system that provides help information for explaining to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the system comprising:

a video display generator;

a remote controller;

a microcontroller; and

an electronic television program guide executed by the microcontroller and programmed to (1) query the user to identify with a remote controller a portion of the electronic television program guide for which the user desires help information; and (2) provide help information for the portion of the electronic program guide identified by the user to the video display generator for display.

51. (New) Machine-readable media for use with an electronic television program guide, the machine-readable media comprising program logic recorded thereon for:

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querying the user to identify a portion of the electronic television program guide for which the user desires help information; and

displaying help information for the portion of the electronic television program guide identified by the user.
